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DIALOGUE

BETWEEN

Mr. *S M I T H*,

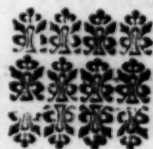
Monfieur *R A G O U S E*,

Menheir *D O R V E I L*, and

Mr. *MANOEL TEXIERA*,

I N A

Walk to Newington.



L O N D O N :

Printed in the Year of our Lord, 1 7 0 1.

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Mr. *S M I T H*,
 Monsieur *R A G O U S E*,
 Menheir *D O R V E I L*, and
 Mr. *M A N O E L T E X I E R A*,

I N A

Walk to Newington.

Smith. Gentlemen, you are well overtaken.

Rag. Mr. *Smith*, I kiss your Hand, and rejoice to see you in the Fields, this pleasant Evening, which is so inviting to a Walk; the Enjoyment of your good Company, Sir, will compleat our Happiness.

Smith. Your Complement, Sir; the Happiness will be upon my side, in so select a Company as you are, where an Improvement may be made in the Custom and Usage of so many Foreign Countries, provided you are not engaged in private Affairs.

Dor. The Pleasure of a Walk, Sir, is the chief Ground of our

Society at present, which will be much more diverting by your good Conversation.

Smith. In a Walk to *Newington*, Gentlemen, as the Wind now sits, we shall have the Benefit of the clear Air; and since you are so free for Conversation, I shall assume the like Freedom of Discourse, and beg the Favour of you, Mr. *Ragouze*, to give me a little Taste of the Excellencies of *France*, how far they exceed what you find in *England*.

Rag. *France* is a pleasant Tract of Ground, in an excellent Air, much larger than *England*, affording delicate Fruit of all kinds, from the benign Temperature of the Climate; extensive Vineyards, which produce large Quantities of Wine of an extraordinary Quality; incomparable Wheat, which makes the best Bread in the World; many Places in *France* hugely diverting by their Natural Excellencies, yet much more improv'd by Art; at *Versailles* the finest Water-Works that ever Eyes beheld: And to set forth the Rarities of *France* to the Life, is a Task too difficult for my Capacity.

Smith. Truly, Sir, as far as I can judge, you need no such Apology; and I acquiesce in the Goodness of your Air, the Pleasantness of your Fruit, the Largeness of your Vineyards, and Goodness of your Bread; and believe your Water-Works to be very diverting: But pray, Sir, what are your chief Manufactures of the Product of *France*, by which you employ your People, and carry on your Foreign Trade? From hence grows the Riches and Strength of a Kingdom.

Rag. We have excellent Flax, and Hemp, which affords a great Variety of Linnen of an unparallel'd Quality, which are transported to all Foreign Parts; abundance of Woollen and Silk Manufactures, Paper, Gloves, Hats, and a multitude of valuable Manufactures, which would be tedious to enumerate.

Smith. I pray, Sir, let us digest your first Article of Linnens, which you say are transported to Foreign Parts; I want very much to be informed, Whether the Flax and Hemp of *France* is better in its Quality, than the Flax and Hemp of *Germany*, *Flanders*, and *Holland*.

Rag. I think, Sir, you need not go far for your Information in that Matter: You know that *French* Linnens were preferr'd in *England* before all others, which must be from their true merit.

Smith.

Smith. I don't take that to be a clear Proof of the Matter, Sir, we had many *French* Commodities in our two last Reigns, in Esteem in *England* beyond their true Value, and preferr'd before Goods of a better merit of the same kind: But to give all due Honour to *France* in this Matter, I have been informed by credible Persons, that extraordinary Care is taken by the Government of *France*, to improve their Manufactures to the very height; which I must own is very commendable, and the true Method to advance Trade, and of very great Importance in the Linnen Manufactures. The changing of Seed, is an Improvement (they say) to the Flax; exact Care in Dressing, due Time in Whitening, skilful Spinning, and good Weaving; all which being dextrously performed, might prevail very much upon those that were less careful or negligent in their Manufactures. I pray, Mr. *Dorveil*, what is your Opinion in this Matter? I have seen finer Linnens from *Holland*, than I ever saw from *France*.

Dor. Truly, Sir, I believe the Flax and Hemp of *Germany*, is capable to be improved equal to that of *France*; and true Management in Whitening, Spinning, and Weaving, is very material in the Manufacture of Linnens; in curious fine Flaxen Linnens, no part of the World doth equal the *Netherlands*.

Rag. The extraordinary Care of *France* in this particular, Gentlemen, is no Proof of the Neglect of *Germany*; nor is it reasonable to believe, that any Country should be so much wanting to its own Interest, as not to improve their Manufactures as far as the Nature of the Materials will bear.

Smith. Where a Government is unmindful of their Manufactures, and doth neither incourage Ingenuity, nor discourage deceitful Making, private Interest doth too often prevail, to the debasing of their Commodities; as is notoriously our Case at present in *England*: And I can testify this of my own Knowledge, Mr. *Ragouze*, that considerable Improvements (these late Years) has been made in the *Germany* Linnens, many Dowlasses lately come over, of an equal goodness to the best in *France*. Now it can't be supposed, that you can sell any of your *French* Linnens in *Germany*, *Flanders*, or *Holland*; and if you must keep pace in *England* and *Spain*, with the cheap Workmanship of *Germany*, this Commodity will never advance *France* to any high degree. And I must observe one thing to you, which is very material

material in this matter, that before the late Wars, your *French* Linnens did not pay so high Custom in *England*, by One Penny in an Ell, as the *Germany* and *Flanders*; which was Incouragement enough to advance yours, and sink theirs. You tell us of many Woollen and Silk Manufactures in *France*: Pray, Sir, are those carried on with the Growth of *France*?

Rag. We have a considerable Quantity of our own Wooll; and we buy in *Poland*, and *Spain*, as you do in *England*.

Smith. The Wooll of *France*, (as I have been told) is not considerable in Quantity, and makes but an indifferent Commodity without a mixture of *English*.

Rag. Our *French* Wool is not so fine as some of your *English*, nor our Quantity so great, but very serviceable when wrote into Manufactures.

Smith. Are your Silk-Manufactures, which you mention, Sir, carried on with the Growth of *France*.

Rag. We bring home most of our Silk by way of Merchandize, from *Italy*, *Turky*, and other parts, but exceed all the World in our Fabricks of Silk; no such Alamodes as are made in *France*.

Smith. This, Sir, confirms what we hinted at before, that the late increase of Trade and Navigation in *France*, was chiefly owing to their Improvement of all sorts of Manufactures, and Neglect of their Neighbours, in not securing their Native Materials of Wooll, &c. to themselves, and suffering their Manufactures to be debased. I believe Mr. *Ragouze*, you don't think that any of your *French* Arts are peculiar to your selves, and not attainable by Industry in other parts.

Rag. There are Natural Excellencies, doubtless, in some Parts of the World, more than others; and I am of your Opinion, That the Industry of one Country may much exceed another; and you are rightly informed of the Care of the *French* Government in this particular; no Ingenuity of any kind, but was rewarded by the *French* King; which was the ready way to bring Fabricks to their Perfection, and thereby render them acceptable in Foreign Parts.

Smith. Had not the *French* King built, in this particular, without a Foundation, his Attainments in all likelihood had been as extensive as his Ambition, had he been Master of our *English* Wool,

Wooll, it would have brought home the *Italian* and *Turky* Silks. In the Reign of King *Charles II.* an Account was taken of Thirty two thousand Packs of *English* Wooll, that was imported into three Ports in *France* in one Year; and the late Check to this Practice, hath drained *France* of a Million of People, which were employed with our Wooll and Silk, the Effect thereof.

Rag. The Persecution in *France* has drove a multitude of People into *England*, and other Parts.

Smith. Whether the want of Employment, or Persecution, was the chief Motive that brought them into *England*, it shall no way lessen their Welcome to me; nor shall I deserve a Censure, if my Reason from fair Grounds, induce me to believe the former: It seems a little improbable, that the *French* Government should part with such a Revenue, which would arise out of the Labour of such a vast Number of People, whilst they were well employ'd. And amongst the whole that are come over, I don't find any that fall into the laborious Employment of Husbandry; which must be the consequence, if any such came over: And the Religion of most of the Labourers in Husbandry, and the Labourers in the Woollen and Silk Manufactures, must be the same. And it's a little remarkable, that this kind of Persecution hath so many times hapned at that very Juncture of Time, when *England* put a stop to the Exportation of their Wooll. When *Edward* the Third put a stop to the Exportation of our Wooll, a multitude of Families presently came into *England*. As likewise in the Reign of *Edward* the Fourth. When Queen *Elizabeth* became Guardian of our Golden Fleece, and humbled the proud *Spaniard*, abundance of *Walloons* came into *England*, through the Persecution of Duke *Alva*. And I have been lately told, that strange Accounts have been given in Foreign Parts, of our Persecution in *England*. I doubt I have trespassed too far upon Mr. *Ragouffe's* Patience in all these Inquiries, and resolve now to apply my self to Mr. *Dorvil*, for my Information in the Rarities of *Holland*, the prodigious increase of which these late Years, is become the Wonder of the World.

Dor. The States of *Holland*, Sir, admits all People, (without enquiry of what Nation) to Merchandize, and enjoy their Religion, from which grows their Greatness: And our Navigation is truly wonderful. But to satisfy your Curiosity, in our numerous

rous Fabricks, which I perceive is your chiefest Aim, I must own my inability. At *Leyden* we have considerable Woollen Manufactures carried on, in great exactness of making, and passing through many publick Searches, by Order of the Government. At *Harlem* many Silk and Linnen Manufactures, and peculiar Commodities at particular Towns. At *Delf* a great variety of Earthen Ware; and our Commodities kept to so exact a Standard, in Making and Packing, that they pass current in Foreign Parts; a wonderful Curiosity and Exactness in our Towns; and indeed the Center of Commerce.

Smith. *Holland*, Sir, I have often thought, must be hugely industrious to make this Advance, when the Materials of your chief Manufactures, are the Product of other Countries, as likewise the greatest part of your Provisions. And it was owned, in a Proclamation dated at the *Hague*, 19th of July, 1624, That the great Fishing, and Catching of Herrings, is the chiefest Trade, and principal Gold Mine of the United Provinces.

Dor. The more Industrious, Sir, the more worthy of Praise; and Money commands all the Commodities of the World. In the easie Navigation of *Holland*, the Freight of Goods is very inconsiderable, and we have other Revenues besides Herring-Fishing.

Smith. Money, Sir, has a commanding Faculty. We only except our Wooll, to be subject to the Demands of an Officer, as oft as a Man treats his Friend with a Dish of Coffee, as in *Holland*, is an irreconcilable Inconveniency to me: And I am satisfied Stock-Fish, and Dried Herrings, is an indifferent sort of Food to your poor People, from the Parson in *Holland*, who to animate his Auditory, compar'd the Joys of Heaven to Mutton and Turnips. And it's evident, Mr. *Dorvil*, as you say, that you have other Revenues in *Holland*, besides Herring-Fishing, from your Merchants Sons, that are got into their Lac'd Hats, and Scarlet Stockings: You seem indeed to stand in need of some Enlargement, when you are grown above Merchandize.

Dor. You lessen our Enjoyments in *France* and *Holland*, Mr. *Smith*; I pray Sir, entertain us a little with your *English* Rarities: You may find Twenty Beggars in *England*, for One in *Holland*.

Smith.

Smith. *Holland*, Sir, does bear an excellent Character for their Industry, in finding sutable Employment for all People that have any Strength to labour : But possibly, in a nice Enquiry into this Matter, it may appear, that this Odds in the Beggars of *England* and *Holland*, may be in great measure owing to our own Negligence. I think I am able to procure a Printed Ticket that was few Years since given out in *Holland*, that gave Notice of One thousand Packs of *English* Wooll, that was there to be sold. But as you have been extreamly obliging, Gentlemen, in your kind Relation of *France* and *Holland*, I will return your Civility with all possible Respect in the like kind, to the best of my Judgment ; and will begin first, (that Right may take place) to represent to you the Noble Constitution of our Government : We are in *England* a Free People, neither subject to the Will of the Prince, as in *France*, nor totally under the Excises of *Holland* ; every individual Subject's Right is secured to him by a Law ; the Prince can no more injure the Subject, than the Subject the Prince ; but all Matters of Right to be decided by Twelve Men, indifferently chosen ; no Taxes to be paid, but what are given by our Representatives in Parliament ; which Liberty is a Jewel of inestimable Value. Nor are we less happy in our abounding Plenty of Provisions, as Oxen, Sheep, Corn, Butter, Cheese, &c. Four thousand Oxen kill'd one Week with the other, in and about the City of *London*, and innumerable Sheep. We have no such Custom in *England*, to beat a Drum at the Slaughter of a fat Ox, or to wager upon its Weight. We likewise abound with excellent Fuel for all Occasions, particularly Coles, wherewith we serve *Germany* and *Holland*, as well as our selves. An incomparable Race of Horses, both for Service and War ; and our Manufactures of the Product of *England*, for Quantity and Quality, are not to be equall'd : No Landskip so pleasant to behold, as our numerous Flocks of Sheep, feeding upon our Carpet-Downs, in our Counties of *Hampshire*, *Wilts*, *Dorset*, and *Somerset* ; and no greater Variety of intermingled Colours, than in our *Leadenhall*-Market.

Our Golden Fleece brancheth its self into various Species of Manufactures, going through several Occupations, from the thickest Drab, to the thinnest Crape, agreeable to hot and cold Climates, difficult to determine wherein they exceed, either in

Beauty or Merit, and through all Degrees of its Manufacture, arise a plentiful Employment : And the *English* Merchant, with his Warehouse abroad, well furnished with our Woollen Manufactures, was in no small Esteem abroad, whilst supported by our Government at home. We are likewise blest with peculiar Commodities for its Improvement, as Fullers-Earth, Copperas, Allom, &c.

Next to this reckon we our Tin and Lead Commodities, of excellent use and peculiar to *England* ; and from hence would arise a plentiful Employment, were we not wanting to our selves ; a Kitchen well adorned with Ranges of our finest Pewter, is to me much better, than a Parlour with *China*-Ware.

A third Commodity of great plenty, and no less value, is our Leather, (no Wooden Shoes in *England*) which being brought to its full perfection, and made into Shoes, would give Employment to a vast Number of People, and no Commodity would be more acceptable abroad : And was the Manufacture of our Wooll, Tin, and Leather, secured to our selves, we should be soon able to compare with *Holland* for Beggars. It was Felony in the Reign of *Queen Elizabeth*, to transport Leather ; and a Duty of almost Twenty per Cent, laid upon Tin exported ; and I will lay down this as a Position, which I will defend, That the more Wooll, Tin, and Leather, is exported, the less Price each of the said Commodities will give in *England*. The *Kentish* Men thought, that their Lands would fall by the stop of the Exportation of Wooll ; the Wooll they then sold for Sixpence per Pound, they now sell at Ninepence. And Tin, in former Days, was at double the Price, when the high Duty was paid upon its Exportation.

Nor is the advantageous Situation of *England* for Defence, unworthy of your Consideration, Gentlemen ; bounded by the Sea, a vast number of Sea-Ports and Harbours, which are of difficult Access to our Enemies, but of easie Outlet to the Inhabitants : Our *English* Oak for Men of War, not to be equall'd : All things within our selves needful for Food and Raiment, War and Peace ; and after a plentiful use to our selves, we export of our own Native Commodities, *Communibus annis*, to the value of above two Millions of Pounds Sterling.

We exceed any part of the World in the Advantages of Education, many endow'd Free Schools, two famous Universities.

And

And our *English* Women are the Glory of the Creation.—But here is Mr. *Manoel Texiera* says nothing to these Matters. I pray, Sir, what part of the World is it, that the Jews inhabit in their own Right.

Man. Gentlemen, you have been so zealous in setting forth, and defending the Excellencies of your own Countries, that there was no room for me to put in a Word ; and I must own my self much obliged for the benefit of your good Conversation. And in Answer to your Question, Mr. *Smith*, which I take as you intended it, I shall only refer you to the Stock of your Old and New *East-India* Companies, the Bank of *England*, and to your Tallies secur'd by Act of Parliament, upon all Branches of your Revenue. I suppose, Sir, you expect that I should give my Judgment in the applauded Excellencies of each Country : I must own my self of your Opinion, in your *English* Women, that they exceed any that I have seen ; but think it not worth your while to contend, or value your self too much upon your *English* Rarities, when a few Days Sail will put a Man into the possession of any of them, be he born in *Italy*, *Spain*, *Germany*, *France*, or *Holland*.

Smith. I believe, that Two Thirds of the Stocks you mention, belong to Foreigners ; and that which makes the Case so much the harder, the Major part belongs to those that live abroad : And to you and I, Mr. *Manoel Texiera*, that knew the Course of Exchange, during the time that our Army was in *Flanders*, which was Twenty-seven *per Cent* advantage, in Remittance of Money into *England*, and the Price that Tallies were sold at here, the matter is not so strange ; the greatest Hardship in this matter, I take to be upon the Broad Weaver, who is a very useful Person in promoting the Welfare of this Kingdom, and doth pay to this Interest, Eight Shillings *per Annum*, if his Family consist of six Persons, in the high Duty upon Linnens, and the Excise upon Salt, which he can't avoid. And I not only agree, that a few Days Sail will put the Foreign Merchant upon equal Foot with the *English*, as our Affairs now stand ; but grant farther, that the advantage these late Years has been on the Foreigners side, the *English* Housekeeper having paid the Taxes, (which has been very heavy) whilst the Foreigner, the Lodger, which hath had the Trade, has gone Scot-free. Had St. *Peter* lived in our Days, he

must have given a quite different Answer to our Saviour's Question, when he ask'd him, *Of whom do King's take Custom, or Tribute, of their own Children, or Strangers?* And in vain had *St. Paul* boasted of being a Free-born *Roman*, or the chief Captain that purchas'd his Freedom with a great Sum. I presume, Gentlemen, that you don't think that you are in the possession of a Fee-simple; it was our great Misfortune in the two last Reigns, to have our Mounds pull'd down, and not much to be doubted, but that this *English Liberty*, which we so much value our selves upon, was herein struck at; through the Interposition of our mighty King *William*, we have stemm'd the Tide against that Design, and are now in Peace again: And if we make no Improvement by our vast Expence, in the Advancement of our Trade, and Recruit of our Riches, but in avoiding *Rome*, should split upon *Geneva*, we deserve to lose the Name of *English-men*. But altho' you jump in my Opinion, Sir, of our *English Women*, there is no way for a Jew to marry an *English Woman*: I am ready to wish the same of the *French, Germans, and Dutch*, fearing by the mixture of our Breed, we should lose that Beauty which we now agree in; and if an *English Merchant* marry with a *Dutch Woman*, he is Disfranchis'd by the Charter of the Merchant-Adventurers.

Man. Marry, Sir, can't a Man tast the Fruit, without being tied to the Tree.

Smith. I think, Sir, the Jews are addicted to that Practice from the extraordinary Punishment, that is inflict'd upon them at *Hamburg*, if they are found guilty of any such Fact; and your Treatment in *England* is hugely different from what you find at *Breame*, and *Limfick*. We talk here of the Bed of Honour, as I am told, they will not suffer a Jew to lodge all Night in either of those Towns; and you are often call'd upon for a good Sum of Money at *Hamburg*.

Man. There are no wise People that will refuse those that bring Money and Trade; from hence grew the Greatness of *Holland*. Some Years since the *French King* made an Offer of Protection, at *Marseilles*, to the Jews planted at *Leghorn*; and the Sweetness of the Situation of that Place, made them resolve to transplant themselves: Which the Great Duke of *Tuscany* discovering, he applied his utmost Endeavours to prevent; and made an Order, That no Person should buy any House belonging to a Jew.

Smith.

Smith. There is a vast difference, Sir, between the Merchandize of *England*, and the Merchandize of *Holland* and *Leghorn*, the former is carried on with valuable Manufactures, made of the Produce of the Lands of *England*, and not to be equall'd by any other part of the World; the other by buying Commodities in one Country, and selling of them in another. And as we are blest with those excellent Manufactures, we have likewise a Seminary of young Merchants, growing out of the younger Sons of our *English* Nobility and Gentry, who receive good Beginnings from their Friends, arising from the plentiful Incomes of their Estates, and the Wisdom of our Ancestors, from *Henry* the Fourth, till the beginning of King *Charles* the Second, successively, did secure the Merchandize of our Woollen Manufactures to our own Subjects, by several Incorporations, and by a strict Injunction of the Payment of Aliens Duties, by Foreign Merchants, upon the Importation and Exportation of their Merchandize; during which time our *English* Factories flourish'd at *Hamburg*, *Antwerp*, *Bruges*, *Dort*, and *Dantzick*. By this late Freedom of Trade, given to Merchant Aliens, the aforesaid Factories are totally sunk: And in lieu thereof, we have in *England* French Factors, German, Dutch, Jews, as you your selves, Gentlemen, are living Testimonies of: Which I take to be a manifest Violation of the *English* Merchant's Right, and a great Diminution of the Riches of this Kingdom.

Rag. It was upon prudent Grounds, doubtless, Mr. *Smith*, that these Alterations were made by your Government; and if what was lost to the *English* Merchant in this particular, (upon which you ground your Complaint) was in a greater measure gain'd to the Publick, in enlarging the Consumption of your Woollen Manufactures in Foreign Parts, which is evident, you ought to be govern'd in this matter, and be content to carry on your Trade for less Profit than in former times, and be more industrious: It seems very preposterous to me, that Merchants should be refused Commodities in *England*, that has Money to buy: I am sure there is no such Custom in *France*, or other Countries; and whilst Foreign Merchants are permitted to Trade in *England*, there is no Restraint laid upon the *English*.

Dor.

Dor. The World is now grown wiser than to suffer a Monopoly of a few *Hamburg* Merchants, to govern so great a Trade to their own Advantage, and the Oppression of Thousands, and to cramp Men in Trade by Oaths : The good Effect of this Alteration, Sir, doth sufficiently justify the Prudence of your Government : Is not Wooll advanc'd a Third part ? And if you have the Benefit of this good Price for your Wooll, and the Workmanship, where is the Ground of your Complaint ? You must live, and let live.

Man. If I buy your Commodities in *England*, Mr. *Smith*, and transport them into Foreign Parts, and thereby gain a Profit, don't I expend this Money in *England* ? And is not this your Gain.

Smith. I perceive, Gentlemen, as you are united in your Conversation, (tho' of different Countries) which is a little remarkable, that you are equally concern'd in defending your Merchandize ; and your first Argument must be granted, that you have a Right by the Favour of our Government. To which I answer : That there is a Possibility in Matters of Trade, for Councils to be deceived ; as has been often seen, where Laws have been made, and suddenly repeal'd ; and a People may be deprived of their Privileges, and designedly made poor, where a Prince has a mind to become absolute, and rule by an Army ; which we had too much Reason to suspect in our two last Reigns : And the necessity of Affairs may require the doing of that at some Junctures of Time, which may be evidently oppressive to our own Subjects, to preserve the Common Good ; which I take to be the chief Ground of your Favour in this particular. The *French* Power was lately so great, that all Assistance seem'd little enough, to be drawn in upon the best Terms we could make, to preserve our Religion and Liberty, by indulging Foreigners in Trade, by letting the Reins loose to Excess in Wine, *Indian* and *Italian* Commodities, &c. to raise high Customs, to create Funds, to borrow Money, extraordinary Incorporations of Trade, unusual Excises, &c. And the Cure of an Evil on one Hand, by such Ways and Means, doth always lead into a like necessity by degrees upon the other hand ; and 'tis impossible to foresee the Inconveniencies that may attend the Publick in such unusual Contracts, as 'tis evident by our new sort of Merchandizes ; and the

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Payment of Debts, out of these Accesses of Wine, and Foreign Commodity, doth plunge the Nation into greater Misfortunes, and the benefit is only to those hot Countries that breed the Commodity. In which case likewise the Government is equally concern'd to preserve the Common Good, and commanded of two Evils to choose the least : *By Righteousness a Nation is exalted, and he that oppresseth the Poor, reproacheth his Maker.* And here, Gentlemen, I ask your Patience, in a brief Recital of the Title of the Merchant-Adventurers of *England*, in whose Right you now stand. And some Occurrences of Trade that hapned in former times.

Henry the Third being engaged in Wars abroad, and at a Strait, was assisted with Money by the *Hanse-Towns in Flanders*; but the Trade was then thrown into the Bargain, with a parcel of Ground called the *Still-yard*, to establish their Factory in *England* in full power to buy our Wooll, Woolsales, Leather, Tin, and to transport them into their own Country to be manufactured. *Edward the Third*, notwithstanding this Grant in the Twenty-seventh Year of his Reign, put a full stop to the Exportation of our Wooll, and thereby brought over a vast Number of their Manufacturers into *England* : Which doubtless occasioned great Strugglings in Trade, (in those Parts which enjoy'd the Benefit of the Manufacture of our Wooll) and Discouragement of our Woollen Manufactures; notwithstanding which, I find this Account, which was made up the Twenty-eighth Year of *Edward the Third*, which is said to be found upon Record in the Exchequer; where the Out-carried Commodities, in Value and Custom, amounted to Two hundred ninety four thousand one hundred eighty four Pounds, seventeen Shillings and 2 *d.* and the Inbrought Commodities, in Value and Custom, but to Thirty eight thousand nine hundred and seventy Pounds, three Shillings and 6 *d.* so that the Nation increas'd in Riches that Year, Two hundred fifty five thousands two hundred and fourteen Pounds, thirteen Shillings and eight Pence; which was a vast Sum, according to the Weight of the Coin of those Times. In the Thirty-eighth Year of this Reign, all Ranks of People were appointed their distinct Habits, to the great Encouragement of our Woollen Manufactures; and a considerable Advance was made in this Reign, in Glory and Riches. *Richard the Second*, his Grand-son, who succeeded

ed him, through his Wars with *France*, and Extravagances at home, soon grew necessitous; and in Consideration of a Sum of Money advanc'd by there Merchant Aliens, he made *London* a Free Port; which drained the Treasure of this Kingdom to that low Ebb, that he was deny'd a Lone of One thousand Pounds, and resigned the Government. And being inclin'd to Wars abroad, the Parliament at that time gave him a Subsidy, upon this Condition, That the Money should be wholly employ'd in keeping the Sea, *Anno Sept. Rich. 2. cap. 3.* Henry the Fourth, who succeeded him, perceiving this Evil, made a Law, That Merchant Aliens should be used no otherwise in *England*, than *English* Merchants were in Foreign Parts, and established the Trade to *Flanders*, *Brabant*, and *Holland*, in *English* Merchants Hands by Charter; which was confirmed in the succeeding Reigns of Henry the Fifth, and Henry the Sixth: But no considerable Advance was made until the Reign of *Edward* the Fourth, who put an effectual stop to the Exportation of our Wooll, confirmed the Charter of the Merchant-Adventurers, and called in Question the Charter of the Merchants of the Still-yard, and forc'd them upon the Payment of a considerable Sum of Money, as likewise to pay Aliens Duties, and strictly forbad them to cover any Foreigners Goods: He suffered none to buy Wooll, but the Manufacturers, recovered the Reputation of our Woollen Manufactures abroad, by exact making, and enjoyn'd the Wear of them at home. And the Duke of *Burgundy* putting a stop to our Woollen Manufactures in *Flanders* at this time, he stopt all Merchandise of those Parts from coming into *England*; which forc'd him to take off the Prohibition of our Cloth in *Flanders*. *Richard* the Third confirm'd the Charter of the *English* Merchants. And *Henry* the Seventh who succeeded him, gave them the Title of *Merchant Adventurers*, and carried on Trade upon the Foundations laid by *Edward* the Fourth, during his Reign; which increas'd the Riches of this Kingdom to that degree, that One million eight hundred thousand Pounds was left in the Treasury at his Death.

Henry the Eighth took different Measures, and being addicted to Pleasures, soon grew necessitous; which gave Opportunity to the Merchants of the Still-yard, by their Bribes to the Courtiers of those times, to become the Favourites in Trade. In the

Twenty-

Twenty-eighth Year of this Reign, they got off Aliens Duties, which gave them that Advantage in Trade, that they shipp'd off Forty Thousand Cloths a Year, and our *English* Merchants not Three Thousand; as appears by the Journals of *Edward* the Sixth, who came next to the Crown. The Affairs of *England* at this Time in Point of Religion and Trade were in a very tottering Condition, and with great Difficulty recover'd by this Excellent Prince, who was blest with a good Counsel; the Disturbances at Home, and Wars in *Scotland* occasion'd a great Expence, and large Sums of Mony were doubtless borrowed of Foreign Merchants, in whose Hands the Treasure was, as well as the Trade; and it was the Fifth and Sixth Year of this Reign before any Relief could be obtained for the *English* Merchant. In the beginning of the Year 1552. the *Merchant-Adventurers* put in their Complaint to the Council, against the Merchants of the *Still-Yard*, the Merchants of the *Still-Yard* put in their Answer upon the Eighteenth Day of *January* in the same Year, and upon the Twenty Fifth the Answer was deliver'd to some Learned Counsel to look and over-see it, upon the Eighteenth Day of *February* the *Merchant-Adventurers* put in their Replication to the *Still-Yards* Answer; and upon the Twenty Third a Decree was made by the Board, that upon Knowledge and Information of their Charters, they had found. *First*, That they were no sufficient Corporation. *Secondly*, That their Numbers, Names, and Nations were unknown. *Thirdly*, That when they had forfeited their Liberties, King *Edward* the Fourth did restore them on this Condition, that they should Colour no Strangers Goods, which they had done; for these Considerations Sentence was given, that they had forfeited their Liberties, and were to be no more than Strangers: Upon the Twenty Eighth (losing no Time in this important Affair) there came Ambassadors from *Hamburg*, *Luteck*, and the Regent of *Flanders*, to speak upon the behalf of the *Still-Yard* Merchants; and upon the Second of *March* the Answer for the Ambassadors of the *Still-Yard* was committed to the Lord Chancellor, the Two Secretaries Sir *Robert Bowes*, and Sir *John Baker*, Judge *Mountague*, *Griffith*, Solicitors *Gosnald*, *Goodrich*, and *Brooks*. It remain'd under Consideration, until the First Day of *May*, and then the

Still-Yard Men receiv'd their Answer, which was to confirm the former Judgment of the Council in *October* the Third following: It is thus exprest by the Hand-writing of *Edward* the Sixth, because I had a Pay of 48000 to be paid in *December*, and had as yet but 14000 beyond Sea to pay it with all, the Merchants did give me a Loan of 40000 to be paid by them the Last of *December*, and to be repaid again by me the Last of *March*; the manner of levying the Loan was out of the Cloths, after the rate of Twenty Shillings a Cloth, for they carried out this Shipping 40000 Broad Cloths; this Grant was confirmed the Fourth Day of this Month, by a Company Assembled of Three Hundred Merchant-Adventurers. I here observe to you Gentlemen (to prevent an Objection that may arise) that notwithstanding the Trade was got wholly into the Hands of these Still-Yard Merchants, and Money extraordinary scarce in *England*; that as soon as the Government thought fit to give Incouragement to *English* Merchants to carry on the Cloth Trade, there was neither wanting Merchants, nor Money to carry on the Trade. The Parliament at this Time were no less signal in their Acts, *Secundo & Tertio*, *Edw. VI. Cap. 22.* a strict Penalty was laid for Customing other Mens Goods, whereby the King looseth his Duty, *Quinto & Sexto*, *Edw. VI. Cap. 6.* a Law was made with great Caution for the true making of our Woollen Manufactures, *Cap. 7.* To restrain all Persons from buying of Wooll, that were not the Manufacturers, *Cap. 14.* To prevent Fore-stallers and Ingrossers of Commodities, *Cap. 16.* A Law was made to prevent Buying and Selling of Offices, *Cap. 19.* Against paying of Gold at advance Prizes, *Cap. 20.* A Law was made that no Person by any means shall lend, or forbear any Sum of Money by any manner of Usury, or Increase, to be received, or hoped for above the Sum Lent, upon Pain to forfeit the Sum Lent and the Increase, Imprisonment and Fine at the Kings Pleasure, *Cap. 25.* A Law was made to impower the Justices of Peace to suppress all Alehouses. *Anno Septimo, Edw. VI. Cap. 5.* The Price of *French* Wine was limited to Eight Pence a Gallon at the most, and the Taverns in all Towns of *England* limited to a certain Number; the Wisdom of this Parliament will be renown'd to Posterity by the good Effect, which it

it produc'd in the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, who continued all the Laws, and doubtless took Care that they were Executed; the *Merchant-Adventurers* were confirm'd by Queen *Elizabeth*, with the Addition of *Germany* to their Charter, and she gave them the Title of *Merchant-Adventurers of England*; and was so far from admitting any Merchant Allien, that she would not suffer any of her own Subject not Free of the Fellowship, to Trade into any Part of their Charter under Imprisonment. I need not spend Time to magnifie these Days, King *James* the First, in the First Year of his Reign, repeal'd all Laws that laid any restraint upon Excess in Wine or Aparent; and by the Thirty Third and Last Act of that Session which stand Recorded, as if it were done at the end of the Session, when the Country Gentlemen were gone out of Town; a Subsidy was granted him for Life, of Thirty Three Shillings Four Pence out of every Sack of Wooll Exported, which contain'd Eighteen Score, and for every Two Hundred and Forty Wooll Fells, Thirty Three Shillings Four Pence, and for every Last of Hides and Backs, Thirty Three Shillings Four Pence; which laid the Foundation of the Misfortunes that hapned in his Sons Days, when the Revenues of the Crown was thus increas'd by the Exportation of Wooll; there was little likelihood of any stop to that Practice, and the Exportation of one part, under the payment of a Duty, was Umbrage to another part without any Duty, this was done in Favour of *Scotland*. And I find in the Reign of *Edward* the Third, that particular Care was taken to prevent any *English* Wooll going into *Scotland*, but *Holland* and other Foreign Parts soon came in for a Share; in the Twenty First Year of this Reign, I have seen an Account of Twenty five Thousand Cloths made in *Holland* in one Year, and as great a Declension in *England*, in the Seventh Year of this Reign, *Cap.* 22. A Subsidy was given to the King of Two Shillings and Eight Pence in the Pound out of all Goods belonging to the natural Born Subjects of *England*, and five Shillings Four Pence out of all Goods belonging to Aliens; Four Shillings in the Pound out of all Lands in the Possession of the natural Born Subjects of *England*, and Eight Shillings in the Pound out of all Lands in *England* in the Hands of Aliens; how far the Court was disgusted at that Time by

this Act I can't tell, but no Parliament was call'd in Fourteen Years after, *Felix quem faciunt aliena pericula cantum*. I have seen lamentable Accounts given of the Trade of *England* in the Year, 1622. by one *Missenden*; the Poor Starve in the Streets for want of Labour, the Prodigal excel in Excess, unheard of Monstrous Murthers of these Times; by one Mr. *Mun* who wrote at the same time, great Multitudes of our Poor, Cheat, Roar, Rob, Hang, Beg, Cant, Pine, and Perish, Page 179. Of *England's Treasure by Foreign Trade*; and no Alteration being made in the Reign of King *Charles* the First, it soon ended in Civil Wars: *Oliver Cromwell* establish'd the *Merchant-Adventurers* in their Trade at *Dort* in *Holland*, which made way for a plentiful Imployment to our Labourers in the Woollen Manufactures, and much Riches was hereby gain'd to *England*; in few Years, soon after the Restauration of King *Charles* the Second, in the Fourteenth Year of his Reign, a grand Committee of Trade was held, and Application was made by a certain Number of *English* Merchants, who prevail'd against the *Merchant-Adventurers*, and the Trade to *Holland*, and *Flanders* was then thrown open; in the Twenty Fifth Year of King *Charles* the Second, Aliens Duties was taken off by the Interest of the Earl of *Shaftsbury*, and the *French* Ambassador.

In the First Year of his present Majesty King *William*, by a Rider in a Bill to prevent the Exportation of Wooll, the *Merchant-Adventurers* were wholly thrown open, and this is your Title Gentlemen, but must ask your Pardon for my long Discourse, from which I only observe, the Antiquity of our Charter, and that during such Time that the Management of this Trade was in *English* Hands; as in the Reigns of *Edward* the Fourth, *Henry* the Seventh, *Edward* the Sixth, and Queen *Elizabeth*, the Affairs of *England* were most flourishing.

Rag. You have given a large Account of the Commerce of former Times, Mr. *Smith*; more, I suppose, to shew your Skill in History, than to apply those Rules in Trade to our Times, when Men were only Soldiers, Herdsmen, and Huntsmen, as Sir *Josiah Child* well observ'd, and knew not Trade. What Advantages in Trade have we made to the *East* and *West-Indies*, to *Italy*, *Turkey*, and other remote Parts, which furnish us with
vast

vast Treasure? And whatsoever need there may be of Companies in those remote Trades, there can be none in so small a distance as *Holland*, *Flanders*, and *Germany*, which is not above three Days Sail.

Smith. It is but Thirty-seven Years since the first Breach was made upon the Merchant-Adventurers; Twenty-five Years since, Aliens Duties was taken off, and but Twelve Years since the Company was wholly thrown open. And that we have a larger Importation by the Trades you mention, than in former Times, I agree; a Nation by a too large Consumption of Foreign Commodities, may Trade it self into Beggary; which is our Case, according to Mr. *Dorveil*. Where a few particular Persons only grow rich; but to argue, that there is no need of Mounds in Trade, between us and *Holland*, because it is so near to us, I humbly conceive, is a mistake, and that from the nearness, there is the more need of incorporating of Trade; there are no People in the World more sharp in Trade, than the *Dutch* and *French*, nor more interfering with our Interest, and supplanting us in Trade; and if they can, by the nearness of their Situation, rob us of our Wooll, Fullers-Earth, buy our Woollen Manufactures white, and hereby furnish the same Markets that we formerly supply'd, we ought to be more careful of our Mounds, than against those that are more remote; and our Hedges, in a short time, will be of little signification to us in *Turkey*, and other remote Places, if we neglect them nearer home: And good Neighbourhood is best preserved, by exact keeping of Mounds.

And here I beg leave to Reply in a few Words to Mr. *Dorveil*, as to the Monopoly of the *Hamburgh*-Company, the affrightful Oaths, and present Price of Wooll: The *Hamburgh*-Company, in the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, consisted of Four thousand Merchants, each Member trading with his own Stock; and the chief Design of those Days, as well as at present, by this Incorporation, was to make the Company as extensive as possible, in respect to Persons and Places, only to secure the Benefit of the Merchandize of our Woollen Manufactures to *English* Subjects. And the Oath of the Fellowship runs thus:

YOU Swear to be good and true to our Sovereign Lord the King, and to his Heirs and Successors; and that if you know any Person
that

that intends any Hurt, Harm, or Prejudice to His Majesty, or His Lands, that you make known the same to the Governor, or Deputy. And that you shall not colour any Foreigners Goods not free of the Fellowship.

And I can prove by undeniable Evidence, that Wooll sold at Eight Shillings per Todd more, for many Years together, the whole Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, than it sells for at present. *Gerard de Maline*. in his Maintenance of Free Trade, page 91, tells you, That Wooll was in those Days at 33 Shillings per Todd ; which at the time he wrote, was fallen under 20 Shillings, which was in the Year 1623 ; much about which Price it's sold for at present. The chief ground of its Fall at that time, I hinted at before : Two Thirds of the exported Commodities of this Kingdom, and a greater share of the Product of our Plantations, being carried into *Germany*, *Flanders*, and *Holland*, the Substance of our Debate, Gentlemen, centers in this Question, Whether the last disposal of these Goods to Foreign Factors residing in *England* ; or to *English* Factors who act for Foreign Merchants abroad, as in the present Course of Trade ; or by *English* Merchants, who send them to their Factories established abroad, to be sold in those Parts, as was the Practice of former time, be a Conveniency, or Inconveniency, to this Kingdom ? I will briefly lay down the Inconveniences which appear to me, and submit to better Judgment, the Hardship to the *English* Merchant, as he is a Natural born Subject of *England*, and hath thereby a Right to the Golden Fleece, as he paid a considerable Sum of Money to entitle him to his Freedom in this ancient Corporation ; and Seven Years Service, is not so considerable at home, as the disadvantageous Terms that he is forc'd to Trade upon abroad, whilst this Freedom is given to Foreigners : He is confin'd to sell his Goods in the City of *Hamburg*, upon two certain Days of the Week, in a Wholesale manner ; the Merchant at *Hamburg*, who hath his Factor in *England*, sends his Goods to all the grand Marts of the Empire, as *Linsick*, *Frankford*, &c. and sell his Merchandize to all Strangers that come to the Town of *Hamburg*, upon all Days, and in as small Quantities as he sees convenient. The *English* Merchant at *Dantzick*, is not permitted to sell to Strangers that come to Town, but only to the Burgers,

gers, whilst these Burgers have their own Factors in *England*; which I mention, Gentlemen, as well to excuse our Defeat, as to set forth our Hardships; and will proceed to the Inconveniences:

I. The Honour of our *English* Nation, in Foreign Parts, is lessened by the loss of those Factories, which were established by Compact by the Kings and Queens of this Realm, upon advantageous Terms.

II. The Government of Trade is hereby taken out of our Hands, which hath a great Influence upon the Price of Goods, and Wages of our Poor. The Parliament, in their Petition to King *James* the First, (which was the Strain of those Times) upon this Occasion declar'd it for a Maxim, That without Order and Government, the great Merchandize of Cloth could not possibly be managed to the publick and assured Benefit of the Realm. Mr. *Mun*, in his Treatise upon Trade, page 20. tells us, That it's *Cent per Cent* odds, in selling our Goods at home, and carrying of them in a Merchant-like manner, and selling of them abroad. And hereby the Foreigner gain the like advantage upon us in selling Linnens, and other Merchandize, in *England*, which is hereby devolved into his Hand, and in former Times were bought by our Merchants in their Markets. And to promote their advantage in this particular, they sell most of their Linnens, and other Merchandize, in *England*, at Six and Nine Months Credit, which hath fill'd our Prison quite full of Debtors: And we may rely upon *Solomon* in this Case, *That the Borrower is Servant to the Lender*. A Man in *Turkey* brought a Commodity to Market, and had several Chapmen that presently forsook him upon his Demand for his Goods, but at last was told by one, that he ask'd considerable above the Value; that he could buy the same Commodity in the same Market, and sell him for good Profit as he ask'd for his. To which the Man reply'd, That it cost him thus much, and he could not live for less Profit. Upon which he was answer'd, That his Chapman that sold it, had cheated him very considerable. To which he answered, That he had not cheated him, but had cheated himself; for if he could not make the Money, he could not pay him. This Evil was redress'd by a Law, *Anno Quinto Eliz. cap. 6. Whosoever shall sell,*
or.

or deliver to any Person, (having not in possession Lands, or Fees, to the clear yearly Value of 3000 l.) any Foreign Wares, not first grown, or first wrought within the Queen's Dominions, appertaining to the Cloathing or Adorning the Body; for which Wares, or the Workmanship thereof, the Seller shall not have receiv'd the whole Money, or Satisfaction in hand, or within Eight and twenty Days after the making or delivery thereof, the Seller, Maker, &c. shall be without all Remedy, by Order of any Law, Custom, or Decree, to recover any Recompence for such Wares, or the Workmanship, whatsoever Assurance he shall have by Bond, Surety, Promise, or Pawn of the Party, or any other, and all Assurances and Bonds in that Case shall be void. And in this Year the Queen's General and Free Pardon was confirm'd by Parliament.

III. Our *English* Navigation is hereby lessened. Between *Michaelmas* 1699, and *Michaelmas* 1700, there were entred in at the Port of *London*, from *Hamburg*, *Bremen*, *Flanders*, and *Holland*, One hundred eighty two *Dutch* Ships; the Freight of each of these Ships, out and home, being computed at 200 l. it amounts to Thirty-six thousand Pounds. Before the Session of the Twenty-fifth of King *Charles* the Second, that took off Aliens Duties, whosoever shipp'd upon Foreign Bottoms, were oblig'd to pay Aliens Duties. And when the Trade was carried on in a regular manner by *English* Merchants, much larger Ships were employ'd, which were of Service in a War, if necessity required it, and One thousand Sea-men employ'd in this Trade, are of more value upon a sudden Invasion, than Five thousand employ'd in remote Parts, and better acquainted in our Home-Seas.

The *English* Merchant being rooted out, the Nation is farther weakned in Case of a War, the Employment of our Poor at such a time, depending wholly upon the Clothier's Stock; when many Instances may be brought, of two or three thousand Cloaths in a War, which have been bought and laid up by one *English* Merchant; and a farther Inconveniency is hereby to the Publick, in the weakness of the Clothier's Stock; in the Price of our Commodities, who is thereby the more liable to be beat down, by little Stops and Contrivances in Trade; and whatsoever Colours go out of Fashion in the present Course of Trade, remain upon the Clothiers Hand, which hath an Influence upon the Price of Wooll and Land; and the Management of the Trade is hereby

by thrown into the Hands of Factors ; a Grievance which was thought needful to be redrest by a Law.

V. The Guardianship and Care of our Woollen Manufacture hereby falling under Foreign Merchants, our Fabricks are very much debas'd, to the loss of our Reputation abroad.

VI. The Trading-Stock of our Kingdom hath hereby been much weakned by bad Debts, which hath been lately made to the value of above 200000 l.

VII. The loss of these Factories abroad, is more considerable, in respect to their Healthfulness, as well as lessening the Places for the younger Sons of our Nobility and Gentry ; Six hundred Pounds is now given with an Apprentice, when these Factories were flourishing, One hundred Pounds was the usual Price : And a greater Pleasure, through nearness of the Correspondence, Letters passing twice a Week ; and many Foreign Merchants Sons, are now bound Apprentices to our best Traders in *England*.

VIII. The loss of the Merchandize can't be reckon'd at less than Ten *per Cent*, whilst the *Dutch Commission* is fallen to One *per Cent* ; and the Trade for *Holland* and *Hamburg* is drawn into very few Hands by Partnership ; by which means, in a short time, they will be able to command Goods upon their own Terms.

IX. Fewer of our Woollen Manufactures are vended in those Parts, and at less Prices ; the Exportation at present do not amount to Forty thousand Cloths a Year. Sir *Walter Rawleigh*, Mr. *Misenden*, and *Gerard de Malline*, do all agree in their Writings, that Eighty thousand Cloths, and the Value of Fifty thousand in Cottons and Kersies, were exported by the *Hamburg* Company, *Communibus annis* : Nay, the Company's Papers make out Ninety thousand ; and that Cloth which is now sold at Six Shillings *per Yard*, was then sold at Eight, which can be prov'd by several Merchants that were Traders at that time.

X. The King is hereby defrauded in his Customs, in their imported Linnens, which are colour'd by Naturalized *Dutch-men*, or *English-men*, in lieu of their Commission ; and larger Estates hath been gotten out of *England* by Linnens, these late Years, than were ever known in former time : One Merchant in *Hamburg*,

burgh, lately left Four hundred thousand Pounds *Sterling*, as is credibly reported ; when, through the whole Course of his Trade, the King may have been defrauded of Fifty thousand Pounds ; and the colouring of Foreigners Goods, is a Practice which was never allow'd by any Government in *England*.

Rag. Do you think, *Mr. Smith*, that whilst you are building Castles and Fortresses in Trade, that other Nations will stand still ; you can't but expect, that the same Means will be taken abroad.

Smith. I am very sensible, *Mr. Ragonse*, of the great Strugglings abroad, at this time, about Trade in *Flanders*, and other Parts ; but there is no building of these Castles and Fortresses, without proper Materials : Our Woollen Manufactures are not to be equall'd for Quality nor Quantity, and cold Countries can't do well without them.

Dor. To disturb a settled Course of Trade, amicably carried on between *England* and *Holland* so many Years, may be a means to introduce greater Inconveniences, (as Matters now stand by the late Conjunction of Affairs) than you can foresee ; and I hope, *Sir William Cockains* Project will caution against such Undertakings ; and I must be plain with you, *Mr. Smith*, that your whole Discourse favours very much of Ingratitude.

Smith. Trade, *Mr. Dorveil*, is the Subject that we are upon, in which there can be no such thing as Friendship, especially whilst the Beggary is on our side. You buy our Commodities as cheap as you can, and sell your own as dear ; and the properest Method to dispose ours to the best advantage, may be likewise allow'd. The Merchant-Adventurers of *England*, by Treaties between the Kings of this Realm, and the States General, are exempt from all Customs established by their Books of Rates, as to Cloths, Bays, and Serges, to which all other are liable ; and all Goods belonging to the said Company, pass through those Countries free, by Land or Water, free from all Tolls and Impositions whatsoever due to any City, Town, or Royalty of any Lord ; and their Factory are exempt from paying any publick Excises, Taxes for Watch and Ward, Quarter of Soldiers, the Poll-Tax, the Hundred or Thousand Penny, commonly impos'd upon their
own

own Subjects ; supposing through the discontinuing of these Priviledges, that you should deny the Right, is not the King of *Great Britain* able to make as good a Bargain again for his own Subjects ; and whether the Ingratitude would not be on your side in such a Denial, let the World judge ? What Commodities have you in *Holland*, that we are under a necessity of ? Is not our Land as productive of Madders, Flax, Hemp, &c. if necessity required it ? Can't we compleat our Woollen Manufactures, and serve *Germany*, *Flanders*, *Dantzick*, *Italy*, *Spain*, *Turkey*, and the *East-Indies*, as well as let them be Manufactured in *Holland*, and then sold in those Parts ? Can't we likewise serve *Germany*, and the *East-Country*, with Pewter, as well as suffer our Tin and Lead to be Manufactured in *Holland*, and then sold there ? Are we under any necessity of your Pan-Tiles, or Cracktails of *Delph*, or the Landskip of a *Dutch Cow* ? To have our Ears dugged for ten Years together. Gentlemen, the Auctions begun, or our *English* Housewifery arraigned, Will you buy a *Dutch Loaf* ? The Conjunction of Affairs which you hint at, I take to be the Succession of *Spain*, the common Thesis of Christendom ; in which Trade being made use of as a strong Motive to a War, I will briefly give you my Thoughts, and how they are grounded : And you are advis'd, Mr. *Dorveil*, by a good Friend to *Holland*, who has wrote largely upon the Duke of *Anjou's* Succession ; to lay aside your selfish and incroaching Temper in Matters of Trade, page 27. in which Treatise I find one particular that I can't well reconcile, and one other Hardship upon the *Dutch*, that I think I can reconcile : He tells us, page 29. *That we are oblig'd to the Dutch by Interest and Gratitude, and that we must endeavour to bring them into a Defensive League.* Page 32. he proves by Sir *William Temple's* Letter, *That before our Revolution, the Dutch were taking Resolutions to become a Maritime Province to France, upon the best Terms they could make.* We have spent a considerable Treasure, and the bravest Action that was ever done, we were told, by our King, was owing to our *English* Courage and Bravery, at the Siege of *Namure*, in the sight of the King of *France's* Army ; the Towns that were their Annoyance are deliver'd up, and *Holland* richer than before the War, and our Friendship as much to be relied upon, as ever on a just occasion. Page 27. he

tells us, That the *Spaniards* hate the *Dutch*, upon the Account of Trade, the Seat of which was formerly at *Antwerp*, but is now removed to *Amsterdam*. It seems to me a very proper time for *England* to reconcile this Hatred between Neighbours, by establishing the *English* Factory as well at *Antwerp*, as at *Amsterdam*, as it was in former time, and then neither have any just Ground to complain. The Gentleman tells us of several Circumstances that are like to happen, and those Circumstances may not happen; but our Trade to the *Mediterranean* will be cut off. Our Government, in former time, cut off that Trade themselves, *Anno Primo & Secundo Phil. & Mar. cap. 2.*

W hosever shall wear Silks, in, or upon his Hat, Bonnet, Girdle, Scabbard, Hose, Shooes, or Spur-Leather, shall be Three Months Imprisoned, and forfeit Ten Pounds, except Mayors, Aldermen, &c. If any Person knowing his Servant to offend, do not put him forth of his Service within Fourteen Days, or do retain him again, he shall forfeit One hundred Pounds.

Dor. The *French* will doubtless obtain that Favour of the *Spaniards*, to become Masters of the *Spanish* Wooll.

Smith. I can't see any Ground for that, the Wooll of *Spain* we compute to be Twenty Thousand Bags a Year, one Hundred an half each Bag; Eight Thousand or more of these you have had into *Holland*; about Five Thousand we have brought into *England*, and the rest have gone into *France*, *Venice*, and other Parts; the *French* to procure these Woolls have no Commodity, but their Linnens; and if the *English* Merchant have a better sortment of Goods to serve the *Spaniard*, he seems to me to be the fairest Chapman; there was never any such instance in Trade, that one Kingdom should be prefer'd in this kind before another; and the *Spaniards* hereby would only hurt themselves: We consume very considerable of *Spanish* Cloth in *England*, and by our Laws no Cloth can be imported, and of this *Spanish* Wooll it is not above Ten Thousand Bags of their *Lioness* Woolls, that are finer then our best *English*; and to this Conjecture Mr. *Dorville* I only Answer, that the Religion which we profess assures us, that the minutest Accidents are directed by Providence, much more.

more the Disposal of Crowns and Kingdoms; and we our selves are under a signal Providence of the like kind, when Humane Reason was at a Loss. The Grandees of *Spain* were doubtless in some extraordinary Concern for the welfare of their Kingdom, in the Unhealthy State of their King, and uncertainty of their Succession: And we may reasonably Believe, that natural Affection very much inclin'd the King and Queen of *Spain* (in defect of their own Issue) to the House of *Austria*; which seems to me to be confirm'd by the Emperors Refusal to come into the Partition; and had that side prevail'd, the Monarchy of *Spain* had been rended in Pieces, as was evident by the Treaty of Partition; which I believe was a principal Motive to fix the Succession in the House of *Bourbon* the Eldest Branch, and if these Matters were so prudently managed by the Grandees of *Spain* to preserve their Monarchy, and keep themselves in Peace; I believe the Counsel of *France* will never prevail to bubble them out of the least Part of their Right; and it seems reasonable to me, that the Duke of *Anjou* from the Inclination of his own Family should be taken with his own Greatness, and become an intire *Spaniard*; and this is sure, that nothing will give the *French* a like Opportunity of incorporating his Forces in the *Spanish* Territories, as the Pressing of the Duke of *Anjou* at this Juncture; Opportunity (the Proverb say) makes a Thief, and upon the other Hand, I am afraid, that if we enter into a War upon Credit, that the *Dutch* will so far incorporate themselves into us, that we shall never be able to clear the Debt, without excising our selves into Slavery; by what I find in the present Juncture of our Affairs, many of our little Corporations have been much prevail'd upon by D— Money. Mr. *Mun* tells us, page 202. That the *Dutch* follow the Example of Philip of Macedon, whose Maxim was, That where Force could not prevail, he always us'd Bribes and Money, to corrupt those who might advance his Fortune: By which Policy he gave Foundation to a Monarchy. And what know we, but that the *Dutch* may aim at some such Sovereignty? These are his Words: Where Force fails, Money prevails. Thus Holds the *Hollanders*.

The *Spaniards* in former Time was putting up for universal Monarch, and his Greatness evidently grew from the Advantages

ges that he enjoy'd in *England* in the long and voluptuous Reign of *Henry* the Eighth, a considerable Part of our Wooll was at that Time Manufactured in *Flanders*; a Factory belonging to the *Hans* Towns of *Flanders*, and *Germany* was established in *England*, that Traded upon equal Terms with the *English*, and indeed carried the whole Trade. The *Portuguese* finding a way by Sea to the *East-Indies*, beat the *Venetians* out of Trade, and found great vent for their Light Commodities in *England*, which great Advantages join'd together, drew the Riches to this Part of *Christendom*, and the dread of those Times was the *Invincible Armado*; Queen *Elizabeth* steam'd the Tide against that Storm, and by the stop of our Wooll quite unpeopled this great Monarch, which is never recover'd to this Day. And the *Walloons* that then came over, are become Masters of our *English* Tongue; and here Mr. *Dorvile*, I will give you a little Satisfaction to Sir *William* *Cochains* Undertaking. Queen *Elizabeth* at this Time, in Favour to the *Hollanders*, gave a Liberty to the *Merchant-Adventurers* to Transport Thirty Thousand Cloths a Year undrest, contrary to an Act of Parliament, that was made in the Reign of *Henry* the Seventh; Sir *Walter Rawleigh* in the beginning of the Reign of King *James* the First, set forth this great Loss to the Kingdom, and Sir *William* *Cochain* and some others undertook to carry on this great Trade with Cloth fully Manufactur'd, but miscarried in their Design; and the Trade in Two Years was committed again to the *Merchant-Adventurers*, and the *Hollander* did at that Time put a stop to the Importation of all dyed Cloth; but at this Time our Wooll was Exported under a small Duty: The late Greatness of *France* as evidently grew from the Advantages that he had out of *England* in the Reign of King *Charles* the Second; upon the Restauration the Book of Rates was settled in Favour of all *French* Commodities, and our Trade for *Flanders* and *Holland* thrown open, our best long Wooll was carried Cheaper into *France* under the shelter of Felony, then unto our nearest Parts of Manufacture in *England*; and with this a Trade was established in *Italy* and *Turky*, which brought home Raw Silks, which were Manufactured into *Allamode*, *Lustrings*, &c. and each Servant Maid in *England* was a standing Revenue

Revenue to the King of *France*, in one Hood or two in a Year. His Claret and Brandy came in like a Flood ; and the Money arising out of this, was invested into *Colchester-Bays*, Says, and Serges, and then sent to his Factory in *Spain*, to incourage and help forward the Sale of his Linnens. And in 'return he had Pieces of Eight, *Spanish* Wooll, Cochineal, &c. and hereby rais'd a considerable Merchandize to *Spain* : Druggets made of our Wooll, were preferr'd in *England* before our own ; Gauſes, Paper, Gloves, Hats, Buckrums, &c. all encouraged ; a vast Consumption of Dowlas and Canvas, through the whole Kingdom, in a constant Trade, which drew vast Treasure into *France* ; and nothing less than Universal Monarch seem'd to be the Aim. King *William*, by his Courage and Conduct, has forc'd him to deliver up the Towns unjustly taken from the *Spaniards*, and Emperor, has diverted the Channel of his Commerce ; we are now serv'd with Dowlasses, Lockrums, Canvas, Buckrums, Paper, &c. from *Germany* ; with Wine from *Portugal* ; our Alamodes are of our own making ; and by the Stop of our Wooll, have brought over to the number of near One Million of his labouring People, with his Merchants, and others depending upon their Fabricks ; who now work upon the same Wooll in *England*, that they had in former times in *France*, and we serve *Italy*, *Spain*, &c. with the same Commodities : These People, in respect of their Employment, will remain here, and become *English* by degrees, as the *Walloons* did in former time. And *France*, without the like ways and means, can never come to annoy his Neighbours, as in former time, which is now in our Power to prevent. The Value of our *English* Wooll is sufficiently declared, by the various Shifts at present made use of to procure it, in Butter-Tubs, Cask of Wooll in the inside, and Cope-ras in Cask on the outside, packt up like Cloth, in all which Disguises it hath been detected: And where the just Blame is to be laid, either in him that took the Opportunity, or in him that gave it, I shall not determine ; but will say this, that I am more reconcil'd to the King of *France*, since I every Day behold his Effigies upon our *Louis d'Ors* ; finding in most of
our:

our Payments above half of this Coyn, and this addition to our Strength, and diminution of his, is great Satisfaction to me in this Conjunction. I pray, Mr. *Dorveil*, what Coyn have you in *Holland*? I never see any of that, tho' very many *Dutch-men* in *England*.

Dor. I pray, Mr. *Smith*, do *Holland* owe *England* any Money? If they do, I am sure they are able to pay. I wish you do not repent too late, in your new contracted Friendship: Are the *French* to be relied upon, after all those villainous Acts.

Rag. I Pray, Mr. *Dorveil*, forbear such unhandsome Reflections; I must needs tell you, that too great a Freedom is taken at this time, in such scandalous Language: Do you think that your former Dealings in the *East-Indies* is quite forgot, when you past for *Dutch-men*, and no Christians? And are you not herein ungrateful, when the very Being of *Holland*, was owing to the Joint-Friendship of *England* and *France*? And I can tell you of a Debt that is owing to *England* of Six hundred thousand Pounds, ever since the Year 1590.

Smith. I must own your kindness, Mr. *Ragouze*, in helping me out; I soon thought that I had ask'd an indigested Question, but do now remember the Debt, and that we had Cautionary Towns for the Payment of the Money. The Principal and Interest will be a fair Article upon our Credit-side. And Mr. *Missenden* makes mention of a certain Toll that was formerly paid to *England*, for Fishing upon our Coasts; but am sorry that I have given this occasion between so good Friends. And to return to our former Subject, give me leave to recommend one Expedient to your Consideration, Mr. *Dorveil*, that in my Opinion would reconcile all our Difficulties in Trade, which we now labour under, which was once propos'd at a Treaty of *Nimeguen*; the banishing all Cotton Linnens out of *Europe*; which would change a multitude of Hands from Woollen to Linnen. The Consumption of these Cotton Linnens in *England*, obtain so far at this time in all sorts of our Dresses, for Night as well as Day, through the Influence of those that govern

govern our Fashions, in which particular a Joint-Stock will always out-do private Traders; that a Man blest with Daughters, hath as hard a Task to keep out of a Milliner's Book, as *Ulysses* had to pass by the *Syrens*; and every Six Women, as Fashions now rule, create a full Employment to a Seventh in Wasting away our Soap: No Muslin will wear genteel above two Days. The best Correspondence between the Rich and Poor, is hereby destroy'd; our poor Widows Tears spring now from their Nakedness, instead of Grief for *Dorcas*, that made them Garments; and be the Disposition of the Lady never so much inclin'd to Charity, there is no Foundation for it to work upon. Whilst our young Ladies, by these extravagant Dresses, are unwarily bubbled in their chief Design, and true Beauty is hereby eclipsed. The Influence of the Sun through a Glass, never fires, but when drawn to a contracted Point. Had we no more *Jacobites* than were made by this means, our State would be more secure. Had *Rachel* been subject to such extravagant high Dresses, her Journey had been troublesome, when she came down to Water her Father's Flocks; and without peradventure, it was her Natural Beauty, in a more contracted Dress, that gave that lasting Wound: And no wonder, that our Matrimonial Fund prove so deficient, when, according to our extravagant Habits, all Thinking Men agree, that the drawing in of Money this way, is taking of it up at 20 per Cent. Double Wages is now given to the Handmaid; yet all too little to keep pace with the Fashions; and the very Hair, which *St. Paul* says, is her Glory, is now sold, to buy a Muslin Commode, and more shamefully applied: And had *Solomon* lived in our Days, all his Wisdom had fail'd him, in describing the Harlot by her Attire. Since White Paper is so much in use in *England*, it would be Fifty thousand Pounds per Annum Advantage to us in the change of these Linnens.

Dor. I have often thought upon this Matter, Mr. *Smith*, and am entirely of your Judgment, and it seems high time to be considered, if your Ladies Night-Dresses are made with this Commodity, our Hollands will grow out of use;

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and

and have likewise often thought upon *Jacob's* Hardship, after Seven Years Service.

Smith. You know, Mr. *Dorveil*, how watchful Men are in Trade, to get an opportunity to put off a Commodity that is deficient in Qualifications to recommend it: *Lea* was tender-eyed.

Dor. Supposing, Mr. *Smith*, that this *Hamburgh*-Company of yours, according to your abundant Zeal, should be Re-establish'd, as, *When the Sky falls, we shall catch Larks*: Will you admit none but *English-men*?

Smith. Forbear Joking too far, Sir, least instead of catching of Larks, we should stop you from catching of Herrings upon our Coasts, which would soon make Fiddlestrings cheap in *Holland*. And if I am not misinformed, you were lately in some Consternation at *Leyden*, through want of *English* Wool. But to give a Civil Answer to your Question: I believe our Government will think fit to admit those that are Naturalized; which may bring over some of your rich *Dutch-men*; but under the strictest Tye and Obligation against colouring other Mens Goods. The colouring of Foreigners Goods, is an Injustice done to our Common Mother the Earth. No Landlord will suffer his Tenant to carry off the Soil made upon his Land, and lay it upon any other; hereby the richest Soil would be soon impoverish'd.

Rag. I hope, Sir, you will take in a *French* Refugee, that was drove out of his Kingdom for his Religion.

Smith. Pity, upon the Score of Religion, prevails much in *England*, Mr. *Ragouffe*; but *France* is not within our Charter: But I think you had one Brother drove into *Germany*, and one into *Holland*, and I know your eldest Brother is in *France*; a good Platform of Commerce, as our Affairs stand: I doubt you left your Religion behind. I perceive in our Coffee-Houses, that you are of the Opinion of a certain Doctor, who being ask'd by a pert Girl, *Which will you have, Sir, Coffee, or Tea?* answer'd, *Te-ipsam*. And a *French* Refugee-Taylor, that was forc'd out of *France* for his Religion, was lately forc'd, by picking up a Lady, to go home without his Breeches in *England*.

Man.

Man. I hope, Mr. *Smith*, that you will dispence your Favours alike to all Strangers, in this advantageous Commerce of yours.

Smith. We never admit any that will not eat Swines-flesh; there is as much good Fellowship in Eating together, as Trading together; and there was always a Difference made between Christians and Jews, ** O nummi vobis hunc prestat honorem.* until of late *. We are now come to the Place where we first began our Discourse; and the Walk has been so exceeding pleasant and diverting to me, through the Favour of your good Company, that it shall pass for my *Trip to the Jubilee*. And I desire no further Satisfaction in the Custom and Usage of Foreign Countries: If any thing has happen'd in our Discourse that is not satisfactory, I hope we shall meet with the like Opportunity, in a short time. In the mean while, with my most grateful Acknowledgments, Gentlemen, I am

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